

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration in view of the previous amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-7, and 9-13 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 2 and 8 are canceled and claims 1, 7 and 13 are amended.

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,548,415 to Tanaka et al.; rejects claims 2-4 and 6-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Tanaka in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,371,610 to Sugawa; rejects claims 3, 4, 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Tanaka in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,357,353 to Hirota; and rejects claims 8-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Tanaka in view of Hirota and Sugawa. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 of the present application defines an image processing apparatus for correcting data of each pixel in an edge area. The claimed apparatus includes, among other elements, a first judgment unit for judging whether a target pixel is in a first edge area by comparing an output from a differential filter with a first reference value and a second judgment unit for judging whether the target pixel is in a second edge area by comparing the output from a differential filter with a second reference value that is smaller than the first reference value. A first correction unit conducts first correction processing on data of each pixel that is judged by the first judgment unit to be in the first edge area. A second correction unit conducts second correction processing on data of each pixel that is judged by the second judgment unit to be in the second edge area. The first correction unit conducts correction processing on at least one of the plurality of color component data differently from other color component data and the second correction unit conducts correction

processing on all of the color component data in a same manner. In a non-limiting example discussed in Applicant's as-filed specification at paragraph [0071], the LUT increasing unit 630 conducts processing on K data out of the four color components of the inputted CMYK image data to increase the density and outputs the resulting K data. A simple decreasing unit 640 conducts processing separately on C data, M data and Y data out of the four color components of the inputted CMYK image data to reduce their densities. As described in paragraph [0096] of Applicant's as-filed specification, the LUT increasing unit 710 conducts processing separately on all the four color components of the inputted CMYK image data to increase their densities.

The Office Action recognizes that Tanaka does not disclose the first and second correction unit as previously recited in cancelled claim 2, and now recited in amended independent claim 1. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Office Action's assertion that Sugawa overcomes the deficiencies of Tanaka. As described in Sugawa at the paragraph beginning at line 10 of column 5, the R type image data and the B type image data are input to average detectors 2523 and 2524 respectively. The average detectors read image data corresponding to the segmented area E from the 8-line memories and output averages derived from the pixel data. The output averages of the respective color types are input to binarizers 2525 and 2526 respectively. Thus, the R type image data and the B type image data undergo the same processing. Furthermore, the binarization is not correction processing.

The dependent claims are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above as well as for the individual features they recite.

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections. In the event that there are any questions concerning this Amendment, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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